GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1818
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
LICENCE FOR OPIUM PRODUCTION
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue licences to private pharma companies for production of Opium and its derivatives to supplement the existing production capacities at the Government owned Ghazipur (U.P.) and Neemuch (M.P.) units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted for issue of such licence?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules, 1985 have been amended to allow the manufacture of specified opium alkaloids/ active pharmaceutical ingredients by persons or entities other than Government Opium & Alkaloid Factories, after obtaining license. The Government has determined that it is in public interest to license two Indian companies for this purpose. Expressions of Interest from interested and eligible Indian pharmaceutical companies in the public sector, private sector or joint sector having an annual turn over of at least Rs.50 crores during each of the past three years; having a strong record of compliance with law subject to their not being marketing agents of any foreign supplier/buyer of narcotic materials have been invited. The Expressions of Interest received from the companies have been evaluated by a committee constituted for this purpose. On evaluation, 16 companies have been found to have qualified on the basis of the aforesaid norms for pre-qualification and technical and financial bids have been invited from these qualified companies.